

**Community Roundtable Councilmember Dave Cortese, District 8**  
**Community Roundtable**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**EVHS**  
**March 25, 2004**

**ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Crime Prevention follow up
2. Put together packet of information on City Resources similar to the information that Neighborhood Academy puts together
3. Look into private funding for the book mobile. Look into stationary drop-off and pick-up spots for books that are checked
4. Dave's staff to work to map out meeting series for bus trip
5. Rabia email EVP minutes to Roundtable
6. Analyze Organizing roundtable
7. Find out if the new library will be able to generate electricity through solar panels?

**Meeting Started 7:10 PM**

Approval of Agenda, Agenda was approved with switching Roundtable Dialogue with Group Presentation.

**Group Presentation**

**Anne Friend, Millbrook Neighborhood Association:** Millbrook became an official organization in February. The association has done traffic calming, a neighborhood clean up, daffodil planting, obtained stop signs and they are preparing for National Night out in August.

**Councilmember Dave Cortese:** What Challenges have you had in forming your organization?

**AF:** It is a diverse neighborhood, trying to learn how to outreach across cultures is difficult. Retired folks are important to have as part of the group. Language barriers have been challenging. Hardest part of organizing is being the leader. Most people are willing to talk but have to be approached.

**DC:** Maria Lopez from Meadow fair had many challenges in the early stages of their neighborhood association. In the first year they would have BBQ's and drop flyers. But it really took door-to-door, having dialog. They had multiple meetings in Meadowfair where only one person showed up.

**Ike White: Mt Pleasant NA:** Mount Pleasant put out 2500 flyers and when the meeting was held four people showed up. Those four people then went door-to-door this past weekend. This will be to get people to attend the next meeting. What is unique about this neighborhood is that it borders District 5. District 5 has gang activity at Fernish Park. They are trying to work with District 5 NA's. Trying to work with the City and school district to build a multi-purpose facility. They want to start a neighborhood watch program. The neighborhood is very diverse.

**AF:** An issue that happened in their neighborhood was that a kid grabbed a rifle out of their garage. Police came out and communicated with the parents. Many of the neighbors were concerned about this and have had conversation because of this.

**Larry Campbell**, SJPD came to NA meeting. Officers talked about crime in the area and got many neighbors to come. Principal has also come to the NA meeting.

**DC:** Eastern boundaries have a lot of representation. We have been attempting to organize and have found that crime / principals, etc... don't work. We know there is something there. Many NA's try to start with email groups but you can't rely on just that. There has to be face-to-face contact.

**IW:** We have used the school as a means of communicating.

**Gordon Lund, Groesbeck NA:** Asked Larry Campbell if his NA is still active.

**LC:** it has re-ignited.

**GL:** Has the City pushed this?

**DC:** There is a disconnect between Neighborhood Watch and SNI's and organizing NA's. Police do not communicate well with the Council office so that we can help with outreach for the neighborhood watch program.

**GL:** Went door-to door years ago with Neighborhood watch but there was never any follow-up.

**DC:** It is important to make sure NA's have some sort of meeting every six months. Need to continue to re-new and rededicate one self. Le Va Cat was the strongest NA at one time it now has dwindled significantly. It now needs to be re-organized.

**Dr. Rod Cryer, Friends of Evergreen Library:** Single issues will only go so far

**DC:** City has way more resources to offer than many realize. We can go to where the City has resources.

**LC:** Traffic issue that Dave mentioned was a big eye opener.

**RC:** May be valuable to list issues. Neighborhood Academy is a good resource.

**Jose Villanueva, Creekside NA:** Neighborhood Academy does have great resources.

**DC:** The first year in office we focused on getting phase one organizing completed. This was organizing NA's and creating the Community Roundtable. To get to phase 2 we need to get the neighborhoods the appropriate tools. Phase 3 would be for the Roundtable to operate independently of Dave. The Roundtable should exist long past the term of the Councilmember.

### **8:00 PM Curb Cuts**

**DC:** Asks neighborhoods to make a list of curbs that need to be retrofitted

**GL:** Doesn't City staff go out and look?

**DC:** The City does not have a collective up to date inventory of where curb cuts, trees, etc..are. They need to be reported to general services.

**LC:** County mappers may have something to this end.

**DC:** We can do reconnaissance work as well

### **8:10 PM Evergreen Library**

**LIZ Gill, Secretary Friends of Evergreen Library:** Friends of Evergreen Library are the spokespeople for the Library. They support speakers and child programs. Evergreen Library will close on 11/30, 2004. to be rebuilt. Many people think there isn't money to build these libraries but bonds have been passed to do this. Tully Library will open on 1/31/05. The Evergreen Library is advising users of other libraries that can be used. Liz is working with **Bea Bachle, of the Evergreen Times:** to get the word out about the closure.

**RC:** Two years ago bonds were passed. It stuck him as a wrecking ball syndrome. Getting more parking, getting 21,000 sq of library space, the turn-about will be fixed. Evergreen

books will go to Tully Library. Staff will also be directed there. There will be a shortage of libraries in the community.

**BB:** She has checked and they may be willing to keep the Evergreen Library open until the Tully Library is open.

**Henry Liem, Groesbeck NA:** Vietnamese Library is opening.

**DC:** The Libraries are being built with Bond money but there is no money for furniture. All libraries are being built with a shell. So all of the furniture has to be moved. Anything that is not conduit. The new structure will have good art and great architecture.

**IW:** Ocala Branch Library will be open until 3/31.

**DC:** West Valley Library is the 1<sup>st</sup> library in the world to reach green building standards. This library will be cloned.

**Vince Songcawon, Evergreen Business Association:** Can this generate electricity through solar panels?

**Lou Kvitec, Silver Creek Valley Community Organization:** What is the concern over staffing?

**DC:** Trying to clean-up operations and maintenance in the library budget.

**LK:** Do high school kids have to do community service?

**RC: Tim McDonough Principal of Science & Technology, Evergreen Valley High School:** Currently gives several students to the library. The Library could not survive without them.

**LG:** Book mobile has been suspended. There are two mobiles one small one large. Small mobile does not need special library driver. Can private money be raised for this?

**LK:** How much money?

**DC:** Are you talking about use in Evergreen specifically?

**LG:** Yes, this idea should be proposed to the community. Mountain View did something along this line. The book mobile reach out to a wide variety of people including assisted living folks.

**DC:** We will look into this.

**LK:** Could this book mobile idea work?

**TM:** The book mobile idea is a good one.

### **Bus Trip to Sacramento / Educational Outreach**

**DC:** Last years bus trip was very productive. **Silvia Alvarez, Evergreen School Board:** mentioned idea of having meeting in advance. Surplus of budget money is diminishing. Info should go out to the community to let them know why they are doing this. Silvia would like to do a town meeting that shows a PBS film. She would like to invite Assemblyman Simitian, Elaine Alquist and Senator John Vasconcelles.

**LK:** People who come to speak should be prepared to answer questions.

**DC:** As part of the delegation to come here? Last time we got educated as we went along.

**Merrilee Claverie, Evergreen Teachers Association:** Raising commercial taxes would bring an additional \$6 million in revenue. There is a petition to sign.

**DC: Dan Gould, Silver Creek Valley Country Club Homeowners Association:** got everybody fired up last year.

**DG:** Seconds Silvia Alvarez's idea

**DC:** Could have a series of meetings

***Sal Alvarez, Assemblyman Simon Salinas's Office:*** Assemblyman Salinas would like to be present at these meetings.

**8:50 Evergreen Visioning Project Update**

**DC:** EVP is a long-term effort to evaluate what should happen with the remaining infill in Evergreen. How this infrastructure and amenities balance with Traffic congestion. Task force is engaged with the largest property owners. All are welcome to attend. Property owners need to pay the “freight”. Something the task force wants is more quality retail. The developers are doing marketing work. This is an interesting balancing of interest.

**LV:** Kudos to you Dave for putting this in place

**DC:** This is a tremendous task

**8:15 Community Announcements**

***Dallas Clark, Evergreen Valley Service Organization:*** Volunteers are needed for the Annual Dumpster Day event.

**DC:** Explains difference between Dumpster Day event and annual Litter Pick-up event.

**VS:** Thanks Dave for the helping with his tree planting effort along Norwood Avenue in conjunction with Our City Forrest.

**DC:** Thank you Vince

**LV:** Silver Creek has an open house on 3/31 that the Roundtable members are invited to attend. On April 29 the Silver Creek Valley Organization is having a meeting regarding the High School. His organization has gotten corporate sponsors.

**GL:** Would it be appropriate now to start to think about organizing the Roundtable as part of a group independent of Dave?

**DC:** Suggests getting a couple models out there.